New forms of methane based compound fuels

4132. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Western countries are researching on newer forms of methane based compound fuels available in abundance under sea;

(b) if so, whether India has moved in this direction and what extent;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any under water oil exploration surveys were conducted in the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Several countries like United States of America (USA), Canada, Germany and Japan, are engaged in the Research and Development (R&D) activities relating to gas hydrates, which are clathrate compounds of methane available on land and off-shore.

To keep abreast with the technological developments world-wide with the ultimate objective to harness gas hydrates, the National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) has been formulated by the Central Government. A road map has been prepared, which *inter-alia* envisages the resource estimation, core well drilling and pilot studies for production of gas from gas hydrates.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

(d) and (e) Under the NGHP, multi-beam Swath Bathmetry and side-scan Sonar Surveys have been carried out during 2002 for gas hydrate studies in selected areas of the East and West Coast of the country.

FDI in petroleum sector

4133. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take measures to boost FDI in the petroleum sector;